

Appl. No. : 09/585,134  
Filed : June 1, 2000

### REMARKS

Claims 10-12 and 14-43 are pending. Claims 1-9 and 13 were cancelled without prejudice, and were recently filed in a divisional application. Claims 14, 17-19, 35-39 and 41-43 were allowed in the last Office Action. Claims 10-12, 15-16, 20-34 and 40 were rejected, and are amended in part, herein. New Claims 44-48 have been added

#### Response to Rejections

1. Drawings

Enclosed herewith are corrected drawings.

2. Specification

Applicants direct the Examiner to page 5, line 30, to page 6, line 7, which provides a description of joints as first and second surfaces joined by fasteners. At page 9, lines 14-24, fasteners are said to refer "to any of the variety of devices that are used to attach one surface to another surface." Representative fastener types are disclosed in the specification and drawings: nails (pages 9-11); staples (pages 11-12); anchor bolts (page 13); bolts, screws, nuts, rivets, wedge anchor bolts, straps, stir-stirrups hangers and tie plates (page 9).

In view of the foregoing and the correction to the drawings, it is respectfully submitted that the specification provides the details necessary for the joint embodiments where the joint structure includes a staple, a rivet, a screw, a wedge anchor bolt and lag bolt.

3. 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶1 rejections

See response to Specification.

4. 35 U.S.C. §112 ¶2 rejections

Claims 10 and 15-16 have been amended to address the Examiner's concerns. Applicants respectfully submit that an antecedent basis has been provided for "nail" in Claim 12. With respect to Claim 40, Applicants respectfully submit that the Claim is allowable as a Markush group. See MPEP §2173.05(h).

### CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for immediate allowance of all claims. If any minor obstacles to allowance are noted which may be corrected by Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

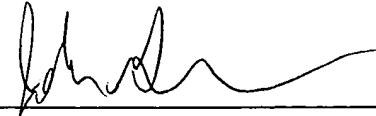
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Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 3/23/04

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